

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-13 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3-5, and 8 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

In item 3 on pages 2-4 of the Office action, claims 1 and 8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Gierut (US Pat. No. 6,122,161) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 5 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 3-7 and 9-13 have been rejected as being obvious over Gierut in view of Leman (U.S. Pat. No. 6,046,912) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, the language of claims 1 and 8 has been slightly amended to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a first printed circuit board having first defined dimensions corresponding to a first standard, and having a first portion of a plug connector, said first printed circuit board extending in a given plane, said first printed circuit board being a main board of a data processing device and including all components necessary for the function of the printed circuit board configuration and slots. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 8 calls for, inter alia:

a first printed circuit board having dimensions corresponding to a first dimension standard, said first printed circuit board substantially extending in a given plane, said first printed circuit board being a main board of a data processing device and including all components necessary for the function of the printed circuit board assembly and slots. (Emphasis added.)

It is noted that a main board, by definition, is the central or primary circuit board making up a computer system or other complex electronic system. A typical computer is built with the microprocessor, main memory and other basic components on the main board. Other components of the computer such as external storage or peripheral devices are attached to the main board via slots, connectors or cables. As also shown in the Hardware Tutorial on the website

www.wsdl.org/kelvin/Departments/teched/TUTORIAL/mothrbrd.html, the main board contains the full set of circuits to run a PC system.

The same is valid for the first printed circuit board of the invention of the instant application representing the main board as containing the necessary elements to run a computer system. As described on page 4, lines 8-12 of the specification of the instant application, all important components are situated on the first printed circuit board while the second printed circuit board only provides plug devices. It is the object of the invention of the instant application to provide a printed circuit board configuration, which allows the main board to be developed only once and which enables, if desired, expansion by further slots.

The claims of the instant application, therefore, call for not only a CPU and memory components being included in the main board, but also all those components necessary to provide full functionality to a system. The fact that the first printed circuit board according to the invention of the instant application is a main board indicates that the limitations described on page 4, lines 8-20 of the specification of the instant application are included in the claims. Nevertheless, the language of claims 1 and 8 has been amended to even more clearly recite that all the necessary components for the function of the circuit board assembly are arranged on the first printed circuit board.

The Examiner has stated that Gierut, especially column 3, lines 52-56, clearly discloses an embodiment that shows the first printed circuit board (Module 2) being a main board and including a CPU, memory components and slots (see the first paragraph on page 5 of the Office action). The text in column 3, lines 52-56 of Gierut states that it is possible to combine the CPU and memory of modules 1 and 2 into a single subassembly, e.g., the module 2. However, the text in column 3, lines 56-59 of Gierut further states that a coprocessor may now be located on the vacated module 1 to improve the power and functionality of the system. The coprocessor is normally located on the main board. This clearly indicates that the module 2 in the embodiment as described in column 3, lines 52-65 of Gierut does not have the function of a main board.

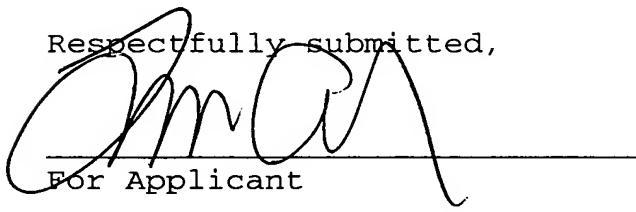
Clearly, Gierut does not show the first printed circuit board being a main board of a data processing device and including all components necessary for the function of the printed circuit board configuration or assembly, as recited in claims 1 and 8 of the instant application.

Claims 1 and 8 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over Gierut and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 8, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-13 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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